

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1209

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”, for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 15, 2013

Mr. OLSON (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. TURNER, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. STIVERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”, for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4       Congress finds that—

5           (1) on April 18, 1942, the brave men of the  
6       17th Bombardment Group (Medium) became known  
7       as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders” for outstanding

1       heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United  
2       States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo;

3                 (2) 80 brave American aircraft crewmen, led by  
4       Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, volunteered for  
5       an “extremely hazardous mission”, without knowing  
6       the target, location, or assignment, and willingly put  
7       their lives in harm’s way, risking death, capture, and  
8       torture;

9                 (3) the conduct of medium bomber operations  
10      from a Navy aircraft carrier under combat condi-  
11      tions had never before been attempted;

12                 (4) after the discovery of the USS Hornet by  
13      Japanese picket ships 170 miles further away from  
14      the prearranged launch point, the Doolittle Tokyo  
15      Raiders proceeded to take off 670 miles from the  
16      coast of Japan;

17                 (5) by launching more than 100 miles beyond  
18      the distance considered to be minimally safe for the  
19      mission, the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders deliberately ac-  
20      cepted the risk that the B-25s might not have  
21      enough fuel to reach the designated air-fields in  
22      China on return;

23                 (6) the additional launch distance greatly in-  
24      creased the risk of crash landing in Japanese occu-

1 pied China, exposing the crews to higher probability  
2 of death, injury, or capture;

3 (7) because of that deliberate choice, after  
4 bombing their targets in Japan, low on fuel and in  
5 setting night and deteriorating weather, none of the  
6 16 airplanes reached the prearranged Chinese air-  
7 fields;

8 (8) of the 80 Doolittle Tokyo Raiders who  
9 launched on the raid, 8 were captured, 2 died in the  
10 crash, and 70 returned to the United States;

11 (9) of the 8 captured Doolittle Tokyo Raiders,  
12 3 were executed and 1 died of disease; and

13 (10) there were only 5 surviving members of  
14 the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders as of February 2013.

15 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

16 (a) AWARD.—

17 (1) AUTHORIZED.—The President pro tempore  
18 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
19 resentatives shall make appropriate arrangements  
20 for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single  
21 gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the  
22 World War II members of the 17th Bombardment  
23 Group (Medium) who became known as the “Doo-  
24 little Tokyo Raiders”, in recognition of their military  
25 service during World War II.

1                             (2) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes  
2                             of the award referred to in paragraph (1), the Sec-  
3                             retary of the Treasury shall strike the gold medal  
4                             with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to  
5                             be determined by the Secretary.

6                             (3) NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED  
7                             STATES AIR FORCE.—

8                             (A) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of  
9                             the gold medal referred to in paragraph (1) in  
10                            honor of the World War II members of the  
11                            17th Bombardment Group (Medium), who be-  
12                            came known as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”,  
13                            the gold medal shall be given to the National  
14                            Museum of the United States Air Force, where  
15                            it shall be available for display with the Doo-  
16                            little Tokyo Raiders Goblets, as appropriate,  
17                            and made available for research.

18                             (B) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense  
19                             of Congress that the National Museum of the  
20                             United States Air Force should make the gold  
21                             medal received under this Act available for dis-  
22                             play elsewhere, particularly at other locations  
23                             and events associated with the Doolittle Tokyo  
24                             Raiders.

1       (b) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—Under such regulations  
2 as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike  
3 and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck  
4 under this Act, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of  
5 the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machin-  
6 ery, and overhead expenses.

7       (c) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck pursuant to  
8 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51  
9 of title 31, United States Code.

